

Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

Volunteer Newsletter

June 2013

What's New?

Spring migration is mostly done and birds on the refuge are engaged in courtship, nesting and brood rearing. Coot, grebe, avocet, black-necked stilt, killdeer, Forster's tern, ibis, and gulls are all incubating eggs, plus curlew and great blue heron already have young. The birds are enjoying the water, while it lasts, at least. May rains helped bring more water into the Bear River and refuge staff was able to keep priority units 3, 4, and 2D at or above target water levels. Other units will begin to dry up and will not be having any water put back in.



Thumbs-Up!

Congratulations to our very own **BOB EBELING** who is the 2012 National Wildlife Association's **NATIONAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!** Over 100 people attended his award presentation on Tuesday June 11th. Donating more than 10,000 hours over 22 years, Bob is very deserving of this award. Pictured: Darlene & Bob Ebeling, and Ann Truslow of the National Wildlife Refuge Association.

WELCOME to our newest team members, interns **Andrea Johnson** and **Nicole Szostak!**

Andrea (on the right, pronounced "Ann-drey-ya"), is a Pathways Intern in law enforcement. She will be working closely with Greg this summer, and also a bit in Environmental Education. She is a student at CA State University and is majoring in Anthropology with a double minor in Criminal Justice and Environmental Resources. She loves to travel and is looking forward to getting to know the Refuge system.

Nicole (on the left) is serving her Internship as a Biology Assistant. She will be working closely with Howard this summer. Nicole just graduated from Central Michigan University 3 weeks ago with a Biology degree and plans to serve in various Internships until she starts graduate school in the fall of 2014. She is thinking she will focus on the salamander population in Virginia, "unless I fall in love with birds along the way." (She will!!) Both ladies eventually aspire to get their doctorate degrees. We are lucky to have them here with us this summer!



Refuge Roundup

It was a BANNER turnout! Fun was had by all as three hundred students and their families turned out for the Refuge's **BIRD BANNER** program for Box Elder County students, held last week of May. Kathi reports that the event was filled with fun, color and creativity. The students re-created their bird drawings into bright, colorful, poster-sized art that will be hanging along Main Street, Brigham City from June 17th – July 19th. Make sure to check them out!



It's a bird, it's a plane, no - it's BIKERS!



Have you noticed an increase in bikers along the road to the loop, and even traveling around the loop? More and more bikers are finding that the peaceful and beautiful refuge is the perfect place to come for long rides where they can enjoy the animals and scenery along the way. Due to their slower pace, it's likely that bikers are privvy to many more sightings than those who are zipping by in

their cars! Please help visitors to be respectful of those on bikes that they may encounter along the road and loop.



Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

- **Safety First!**

Volunteers, it's time for those of you who need to certify or recertify for CPR/First Aid to come on in and get your training! Plan to spend the day with Greg Mullin on Tuesday June 18 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Be sure to remember a bag lunch and water!

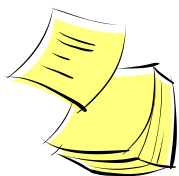
- **Mark Your Calendars and Save the Dates!**

As summer has arrived and its time to start planning. Here are some dates to mark on your calendar.



- **Tuesday, June 18: First Aid / CPR training, 9-3**
- **Thursday, July 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY!** (We are closed)
- **Wednesday, July 24: Pioneer Day** (We are OPEN!)

From The “Birds Who Have Flown The Nest”:



To all my friends, staff n vols back at BRMBR! Just wanted to send you a lil update. After my first full month in Texas - I have survived flooding, the heat, scorpions, rattlesnakes AND a tarantula encounter! I have also seen over 200 species of birds - including 11 new life birds! I've been proudly wearing my Birdnerd t-shirt n drinkin from my Birdnerd mug - and am learning as fast as I can and enjoying my work with Audubon and the students of Texas!

Miss y'all - Jason

News from the AVOCET CORNER BOOKSTORE!

Great news for all of you who have been asking about when we can expect t-shirts in, the answer is SOON! Can't wait!

Check out the amazing selection of new kids toys in the bookstore at the A-MATION Station. From magnifying glasses to spinning tops and chip clips there are many fun new animal-themed gifts to choose from.

